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CIA 8 HSC - Report

Schorr Says He Leaked Material

By Laurence Stern

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CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr yesterday acknowledged he was the source of excerpts from the report of the House intelligence committee published in the Village Voice on Wednesday.

At the same time, CBS News announced that "another correspondent will be assigned to cover the controversy surrounding the House intelligence committee report "since CBS News policy requires that no correspondent may report a story in which he is personally involved."

The network also said that it would have no comment on

Schorr's statement "because of the possibility of a federal investigation of the circumstances surrounding the 'leak' of the report..."

President Ford said Thursday that he would make "all services and resources of the executive branch" available to trace the sources of the leak of the House report. Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) has not accepted that offer.

CBS said in its statement that it would, "consistent with its longstanding practice...support Mr. Schorr against any effort to compel him to reveal his confidential sources in the acquisition of the report."

So far, there has been no allegation that a federal crime was committed in the leak of

the document to the Voice. Congress could subpoena Schorr's testimony and ask him, under penalty of contempt, to reveal the source of the document. Contempt of Congress is punishable by fine and-or jail terms.

"I decided that, with much of the contents already known, I could not be the one responsible for suppressing the report," Schorr said in acknowledging his involvement in the leak.

Schorr, in his personal statement issued from the CBS Washington bureau, said he concluded yesterday it had become "pointless" to conceal his role in the Village Voice leak because the confidentiality of the arrangement had been "breached" by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

"And I am fully aware of the irony of my complaining about leaks," said the veteran CBS broadcaster, who has gotten his share of them in coverage of the Watergate case as well as the intelligence scandals.

A spokesman for the reporters committee said the committee put Schorr in touch with an attorney "familiar with publishing so that Mr. Schorr could make his own publication arrangements.

Mr. Schorr said his plan was to have the report published in book form with an introduction signed by him...

"When he changed his plans, there was simply no way that, after publication, Mr. Schorr could have expected that a committee of

news reporters would not publicly confirm all the arrangements."

Schorr said the Washington-based journalists' organization provided an intermediary who contacted New York Magazine and Village Voice publisher Clay Felker who offered to publish the report.

Felker also promised, said Schorr, to "provide a substantial contribution directly to the reporters committee."

"Baloney," responded Robert Maynard, a trustee of the reporters committee and editorial writer for The Washington Post. "He's trying to make us a partner in his calumny. We provided him only with a lawyer. We are in the business of providing lawyers to reporters with First Amendment problems. We were never promised a substantial contribution."

Schorr said that he enlisted the "confidential cooperation" of the reporters committee as additional protection for his source and in order to make "some symbolic contribution to press freedom" from proceeds of commercial distribution.

He said he would have preferred "the more neutral form of a book" to publication in the Village Voice, but was advised that "this was the best opportunity available and would be withdrawn within 24 hours."

Schorr initially denied his role in transmission of the report, which was reported in Thursday's Washington Post. Yesterday, however, he said, "I deeply regret that the reporters committee has not been able to maintain the confidentiality of the arrangement because there are delicate matters involved that journalists should want to protect in their common interest."

~~Schorr, Village Voice~~

P. Felker, Clay